



Incorporated 1787

Parks & Recreation Commission

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2012

7:45 P.M.

WESTON TOWN HALL

DAUGHERTY COMMISSION ROOM

Eric Albert
Chairman
Committees:
Administrative,
Programs

Robert Uzenoff
Vice Chairman
Committee:
Administrative

Carl Bernstein
Commissioner
Committees:
Fields, Parks

Marc Butlein
Commissioner
Committee:
Programs

Brian Collins
Commissioner
Committee:

Jed Ferdinand
Secretary
Committee:
Aquatics

David Juneau
Commissioner
Committee: Fields

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*Official action of the commission in these minutes is indicated by
underlining.*

The Weston Parks and Recreation Commission (WPRC) held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 12, 2012 at Weston Town Hall. Commissioners present: Eric Albert (Chairman), Carl Bernstein, Brian Collins, Jed Ferdinand, Bob Uzenoff, David Juneau and Marc Butlein (8:15 p.m.). Commissioners absent: none. Public official present: Gayle Weinstein, First Selectman. Public present: Rich Hassan, Joe Cina, Chris Meyers and John Allen (by telephone).

1) Call to order: Mr. Albert called the meeting to order at 7:47 p.m.

2) Approval of Minutes. Minutes of the February 13, 2012 meeting were approved subject to minor modifications. For: Albert, Ferdinand, Collins, Butlein, Bernstein, Juneau and Uzenoff. Against: None. Motion carried 7-0.

3) Public Forum.

a) Weston Soccer Club: Chris Meyers, President of Weston Soccer Club, appeared to introduce himself and to discuss certain issues related to the WSC. The WSC is a very successful and popular organization. The recent registration figures are very positive. He raised three issues for consideration. First, illegal parking at Morehouse is a problem on Saturday mornings. The police will be contacted and asked to do increased sweeps in order to keep parking under control. Mr. Meyer also asked for consideration of

32 additional no parking signs. Second, parents bring dogs to soccer
33 games and the situation has become a problem. Technically dogs
34 are not permitted at Morehouse. There is a desire to have the “no
35 dogs” rule enforced. Finally, the WSC uses environmentally safe
36 paint for the lines on the soccer fields. The paint is expensive.
37 There is a desire to coordinate painting and field mowing by P&R
38 to ensure maximum life for the painted field lines. Dave Ungar will
39 coordinate with Charlie Ameer, the WSC field coordinator.

40 b) Weston Little League. Rich Hassan and Joe Cina appeared to
41 follow up about the “Sleeping Under the Stars” event that they first
42 presented to the Commission at the February 13, 2012 meeting.
43 WLL will submit a written proposal to the Commission. That
44 proposal will also be forwarded to the relevant authorities for
45 approval. Mr. Hassan then addressed a new issue. WLL desires to
46 raise additional revenues to fund several major projects, including
47 lighting and a press box for Bisceglie Field #1. Currently WLL has
48 very positive sponsorships from local businesses. The sponsorships
49 are limited to placement of sponsor names on team uniforms and in
50 certain written marketing documents. WLL would like to consider
51 having sponsor names and logos appear on signs and banners
52 placed on the outfield walls of the Bisceglie fields. WLL presented
53 this issue to the Commission back in 2005 and it was voted down.
54 A discussion ensued and a number of issues were raised. Would
55 the signs be permanent or by season? Who would have the ultimate
56 authority to decide on the sponsors and on the design of the
57 signs/banners to ensure they were done tastefully? Where would
58 the money go? Consideration was given to donating a portion of
59 the additional new revenue to charitable causes. WLL pledged to
60 consider all issues and to present a written plan for the
61 Commission’s review. The First Selectman appeared and was
62 supportive of the idea as a way to raise new revenue. The
63 Commission was generally supportive of the idea. All parties
64 recognized that several important issues remained to be decided and
65 would defer further consideration pending receipt of the written
66 proposal from WLL.

67 4) Unfinished Business

68 a) Review of Action Items: None.

69 b) Keene Park Picnic Table Donation: John Allen appeared by
70 telephone to discuss donating a picnic table in Keene Park. Mr.
71 Allen is not a resident, but he visited Keene Park in his youth and it
72 has special memories for him. He desires to donate a picnic table
73 and have a plaque on the table to honor a friend who is ill. The
74 project would be at Mr. Allen’s expense. Dave Ungar will research
75 the cost of the table and will contact Mr. Allen with the figures. He
76 will then decide whether he wants to proceed. The Commission

- 77 agreed to allow Mr. Ungar to handle the matter administratively if
78 the cost of the table is less than \$1,000 and Mr. Allen is willing to
79 pay for the entire cost of the table and installation.
- 80 c) Adult and Senior Programming: The Commission continued the
81 discussion about how to increase programs for adults and seniors in
82 Town. Commissioner Albert reported that Helen de Keijer from
83 the Weston Commission on Aging is very pleased that the
84 Commission is considering additional opportunities for seniors. Ms.
85 De Keijer indicated that access to exercise equipment for seniors is
86 a priority. The primary option under consideration is the Middle
87 School because it has existing equipment that is not in use after
88 school hours (the High School is not possible because athletes use
89 the equipment after school). The plan would be to make the Middle
90 School exercise equipment available to adults and seniors after
91 school hours. A certified trainer would need to be on premises.
92 The Town of Westport has a similar program. Commissioner
93 Albert indicated that the goal will be to charge a fee for all
94 programs to ensure that the Town covers all costs. The adult and
95 senior programs will be modeled on the Youth Services programs,
96 which charge a fee. P&R and the Commission are still
97 investigating and exploring all options for additional programs. Mr.
98 Ungar has met with the Town Library to discuss additional options.
- 99 d) Enterprise Fund: The discussion of adult and senior programs led
100 into a discussion of P&R's Enterprise Fund. The First Selectman
101 advised that the goal should be greater transparency and reporting
102 of the EF to the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance.
103 Commissioner Albert responded that measures are already under
104 way for better reporting of EF revenues and expenses. The First
105 Selectman indicated that the EF should have a cushion of at least
106 \$50,000 in the fund at all times. Mr. Butlein said that P&R needs
107 to develop an operating or business plan to forecast future
108 expenditures. All parties need an understanding of revenues, cost
109 and expenses for P&R programs. Mr. Ungar indicated that the new
110 computer system, Rec-Trac, will help P&R to collect data. Another
111 suggestion was to look to Town experts, like Rick Darling, for
112 advice and assistance. The First Selectman indicated that the Town
113 will need to take some portion of the EF on an annual basis –
114 currently expected to be at least \$20,000. That number should be
115 factored into future financial planning for the EF.
- 116 e) Board of Finance Meeting: Commissioner Albert reported on a
117 recent Board of Finance meeting. The BOF's expectation is that
118 P&R should operate more like a business, to the extent possible.
119 The BOF requested that P&R provide revenue and cost forecasts on
120 a program by program basis. The First Selectman reported that the
121 Board of Selectman will create a "sinking fund" to cover certain

122 Town expenditures. The P&R's request for a new tractor and pick-
123 up truck will now come out of this new fund. It will no longer be
124 part of the Capital Budget, which means that such expenditures will
125 not require a Town vote. The tractor and truck are in the Town
126 budget for the next fiscal year. P&R will need to get approval for
127 these purchases after the beginning of the next fiscal year on July 1.
128 It is an additional step, but hopefully will help to ease the process
129 and will result in P&R being able to acquire both the tractor and
130 truck.

131 f) Middle School Pool Status Report: See Aquatics Committee report,
132 below.

133 g) Revson Field Update: The First Selectman reported that she has
134 personally directed and overseen repairs at the JV field to make
135 sure that the contractor finishes the work. As of now she expects
136 the JV field to be completed and ready for play by the beginning of
137 the baseball season. The Weston HS Varsity team will use the JV
138 field, and the Junior Varsity team will need to practice at
139 Morehouse until the Varsity field is completed. The First
140 Selectman has also been working actively with the contractor to
141 complete the Varsity field. The contractor was not responsive on
142 many occasions, but she has continued to reach out to him to keep
143 the pressure on. The plan is for the contractor to continue work on
144 the Varsity field once the JV field is completed. The project is
145 currently under budget. The First Selectman has made sure that the
146 Town's consultants have documented all of the contractor's
147 deficiencies for the project in case that information is ever needed
148 in the future.

149 5) Report of standing committees and resulting motions:

150 a) Administrative Committee: Commissioner Albert reported that
151 there was an issue with the Saturday youth basketball program a
152 few weeks ago. The Principal of the Intermediate School cancelled
153 all basketball games as of 2:00 p.m. due to a school play and it
154 caused great confusion. Commissioner Albert wrote an email to the
155 school administration. Superintendent Palmer wrote an email of
156 apology and the matter is now closed.

157 b) Aquatics Committee: Mr. Ungar presented the monthly Middle
158 School pool report (copy attached). New dive blocks will be
159 installed during the week of March 19th. Mr. Ungar attended a
160 course and is now an accredited aquatic facility coordinator.

161 c) Fields Committee: Mr. Ungar is satisfied with the condition of the
162 fields (with the exception of Revson). The spring clean-up for
163 Morehouse has begun. Bisceglie #1 and #2 were recently
164 renovated and are in great condition. Bisceglie #3 is scheduled for
165 renovation later this year.

- 166 Mr. Butlein suggested creating a checklist of open action items for
167 any joint program where P&R has overlapping jurisdiction with the
168 Board of Education. The Commission was favorably inclined to
169 this suggestion.
- 170 d) Programs Committee: Mr. Ungar reported that the winter programs
171 are all going well. Registration for summer camps will begin
172 immediately after the April school vacation. P&R's T-ball program
173 no longer exists. Weston Little League and Weston Girls Softball
174 now each offer their own T-ball programs.
- 175 A discussion ensued about program costs and how to balance Town
176 participation with making sure that P&R covers all costs. It was
177 suggested that P&R look to how other local towns handle costs, and
178 how much sponsored organizations are asked to contribute. Mr.
179 Butlein suggested that we may be heading towards a need to
180 recover more fees from P&R sponsored organizations.
- 181 e) Parks Committee: Mr. Ungar reported that the Town parks are all in
182 good condition.
- 183 6) New Business:
- 184 Fourth of July: Town fireworks for July 4th are in jeopardy for this
185 summer because there is currently no suitable field to host the event.
186 There was a discussion of all possible alternatives. One consideration
187 is South House Field. Mr. Ungar will consider the issue further.
- 188 7) Correspondence: None.
- 189 8) Announcements: None.
- 190 9) Adjournment: The Commission adjourned at 10:20 p.m., Butlein/
191 Uzenoff motion and second. All in favor 7-0.
- 192 Respectfully Submitted,
193 Jed Ferdinand, Secretary

MIDDLE SCHOOL POOL REPORT**MARCH****2012**

FIXED

IN PROCESS OF BEING FIXED

ATTENTION NEEDED

BOYS LOCKER ROOM

URINAL x

WATER FOUNTAIN x

HANDICAP SHOWER X

BATHROOM LIGHTS X

FLOODING X

GIRLS LOCKER ROOM

SEPTIC ODOR X

HANDICAP SHOWER X

DECK DOOR LOCK X

FLOODING

POOL DECK

PERIMETER LIGHTS X 19-Jan

LOCKS X ALL NEW LOCKS IN AUG 2012

ELECTRICAL OUTLETS X

EXHAUST FANS Feb. 9 Feb. 8

WATER FOUNTAINS X

DIVING BLOCKS X March installation

FILTER ROOM

OUTLETS X

CHEMICAL ROOM

WASHING MACHINE DRAIN X

POOL SHOWERS X 14-Jan

There were a couple of plumbing issues that happened in February that were quickly repaired. The handicap shower nozzles from both sides of the shower rooms were broken, due to misuse. They were replaced within a week with new hoses and nozzles. The men's urinals were leaking again and the plumber fixed them within a few days.

The diving blocks are scheduled to be installed the week of March 19.

March 12, 2012

To Weston Parks and Recreation Commission:

As we have seen on our visits to possible programming sites for Adult classes, there are positive and negative feelings about each area. The Weston Grange is an older building with a very large room with a wooden floor. The kitchen has a six burner gas stove. There would be a rental charge and a possible clean up charge with the use of the Grange. We were greeted with open arms by Lyn Kimberly, who is a board member of the Grange. The fee for the grange was \$150 for the day; however Lyn said her board would be willing to negotiate with us if we were to use the Grange for more than one program. At this point the Grange is used every day in the morning thru noon time and all day Saturday and Sunday. We could go in with programming from 1pm – 9pm. We were thinking Wednesday and Thursday would be the days, more likely leaning on evening times for Adults to attend after work.

The Weston Community room at the Library will not allow cooking classes in their facility due to local fire laws. The room has chairs and tables only that fold up or are stacked up along the side of the room. There is no storage area for equipment. Everything would have to be brought in each time the facility is used. Karen Tatarka was very welcoming, and said she had some openings in the mornings and evenings for some adult programs. There would not be any rental charges to us, however depending on the program, it would have to be the instructor who sets up for the program as well as puts everything back to its place at the end of the class.

On Wednesday this week, we are meeting with Wendy Petty and Pam Wilson from the Senior Center. Wendy is the Director and Pam is the program coordinator of the Senior Center. We hope to find out what programs they are offering for the seniors. There are strong rumors that she will be getting more space in classrooms and exclusive use of the All Purpose room for Senior Exercise classes. We are thinking that maybe we can use this room after the Senior Center closes at 3.

The other piece of good news is the possible availability of the Middle School New Gym after school and in the evenings beginning September 2012. It is now used by the High School Gymnastics team from November – March. This equipment stays up all the time during this period. The Varsity team will be relocating off campus. Having access to this facility during after school and evening hours would allow us to:

1. Schedule Volleyball classes for kids and adults which have proven to be popular during Winter months until all the facilities became so hard to find.
2. Schedule Open Gym times for adults, older and younger kids which we get huge requests for but are unable to provide due to overscheduling of all gyms for Board of Ed, Travel Basketball and Recreation Basketball.
3. Hold practices for Gr. 1-4 Youth Basketball which we are unable to do due to lack of facility availability.
4. Provide a large facility where we could store mats, balls, volleyball nets and post, exercise targeted equipment, video and audio equipment for dance classes if interest is shown.

In looking at the Weston Pool for more adult programming, there is no time available. The Middle School does not want adults in the locker rooms while school is in session. All Middle School PE classes use the locker rooms in the pool area. The locker rooms upstairs off of the Old Gym are used for storage. This makes it difficult to schedule any adult programs during the day. The weeknights are used by Weston Swimming 5-8pm on Monday and Wednesday and 5-8:30 on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. They also come in on Saturday mornings 7-9am. We have a Triathlon Club that rents pool times from us on Monday and Wednesday evenings, along with Sundays 5-

6pm. This group has been with us for 4 years, thanks to Pat Kane who brought them to us. The Monday and Wednesday times are shared with public swim.

I have just met with Elizabeth Pocsik who is the current President of Weston Swimming. They wanted to talk about getting more pool times. At this point, there are no extra times to give, barring eliminating Public Swim and Triathlon training on Monday and Wednesday nights. They will start practice at 4:45 for the spring only. In the fall, High School swimming starts and the coach has said he needs 2 hours from 3-5pm and will not allow Weston Swimming to come in 15 minutes early.


At this point Weston Swimming understands that the only extra pool time would be at the later times. They can extend practice until 9pm on Tuesday, Thursday or Fridays. I will ask the commission for guidance on giving up Monday and Wednesday public swim and Triathlon Club. Weston Swimming was quick to point out that the Trifitness Triathlon Club people are from out of town. We do generate an income from the club. Last year, Trifitness paid us \$5,000 in rental fees for Monday, Wednesday and Sunday times.

Weekends at the pool are busy. On Saturday we have Weston swimming 7-9am, private swim lessons 9-10:30am, group swim classes from 10:30am-12:30pm. Public swim from 2-5pm. We offer pool party times 1-2pm and 5-6pm. Sundays we have private swim lessons all morning, diving 11:30-1. Public Swim 2-5pm and Trifitness Triathlon training 5-6pm.


The only interest from the public that I've heard about is pool use during the weekday. This would be a water or swim fitness class always in the mornings after 9am. This population would either have children in school or they would be senior citizens or people who work from home. As I've just mentioned, the time does not work with the school hours, and in the summer months, we would have campers using the pool in the mornings and Weston Swimming practice time 7-9am.

We hope this gives you a good idea of what we have found in Town that is available for programing adult classes. We have some great instructors and some great ideas and are looking into what would be the most desirable location and cost effective for programing. We welcome any ideas or feedback from the commission and public who would like to share them with us.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynn Stevens



Bill Shaeffer